

106TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 4689

To require Federal authorities to provide information in medical records seized from a medical practice to that practice in order to enable it to continue caring for its patients.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 15, 2000

Mr. WALSH (for himself, Mr. McHUGH, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. PAUL, Mr. SOUDER, Mr. QUINN, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. COOKSEY, and Mr. HILLEARY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

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## A BILL

To require Federal authorities to provide information in medical records seized from a medical practice to that practice in order to enable it to continue caring for its patients.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

### 3   **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Medical Records Sei-  
5       zure Act of 2000”.

1 **SEC. 2. SEIZED MEDICAL RECORDS.**

2 (a) GENERAL RULE.—Whenever any Federal author-  
3 ity seizes medical records from an active medical practice  
4 (including a hospital), it shall be the duty of that authority  
5 to provide the complete information contained in those  
6 records to that practice not later than 48 hours after the  
7 seizure occurs.

8 (b) CIVIL ACTION.—Any person aggrieved by a fail-  
9 ure of a Federal authority to carry out a duty imposed  
10 on it by subsection (a) may, in a civil action against that  
11 authority, obtain appropriate relief, including statutory  
12 damages in the amount of \$1,000 for each 24 hours of  
13 delay in providing the information beyond the 48 hour pe-  
14 riod specified in subsection (a). For these purposes, if the  
15 delay does not evenly divide into 24-hour segments, the  
16 remainder shall count as a single segment of 24 hours.

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